

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /043 W

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P R 141425Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5686

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 3181

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/S, GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, WZ

SUBJECT: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 3169

FOLLOWING COMMENTS APPLY TO POST'S DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT ON SWAZILAND (REFTEL) AND SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT IN DEPARTMENT'S PROCESSING OF DRAFT.

1. GOS OBSERVATIONS ON LAST YEAR'S REPORT WERE SENT
TO DAPARTMENT IN MBABANE A-12 MARCH 31, 1978:

A. FROM GOS OBSERVATIONS, DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT
GOVERNMENT IS SENSITIVE ABOUT WORD "TRIBAL," WHICH
SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN ANY REWRITE OF THIS YEAR'S REPORT.

B. GOS ALSO OPPOSES EXPRESSION "1973 SECURITY ACT,"
CAUSING US TO REFER THIS YEAR TO "KING'S PROCLAMATION
OF APRIL 12, 1973."

C. GOS CORRECTLY CITED LAW THAT PERMITS LABOR UNIONS
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TO FUNCTION. IN THIS YEAR'S DRAFT WE HAVE TRIED TO
INDICATE THAT, THE LAW NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE IS
LITTLE REAL UNION ACTIVITY IN SWAZILAND. (FYI, UNION
EFFORTS ARE DAMPENED BY EVENTS SUCH AS THE SEPTEMBER 1
SENTENCING OF BANK WORKERS UNION CHIEF FOR STEALING
FROM BARCLAYS BANK.)

D. GOS MAINTAINED IN ITS OBSERVATIONS LAST YEAR THAT "THE FREEDOM TO EMIGRATE IS NOT RESTRICTED BY ANY LAW IN SWAZILAND." WE INDICATE IN THIS YEAR'S DRAFT THAT CITIZENS MAY NOT ALWAYS RECEIVE THE PASSPORT OR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE FOREIGN TRAVEL.

E. GOS TOOK UMBRAGE AT LAST YEAR'S STATEMENTS ON CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM, HINTING THAT REMARKS WERE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT QUANTIFICATION. SINCE NEITHER CORRUPTION NOR NEPOTISM IS SIGNIFICANT DETERRENT TO LIBERALIZATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SWAZILAND, POST'S DRAFT HAS OMITTED REFERENCE TO BOTH THIS YEAR. IN ANY CASE, SITUATION ON BOTH HAS NOT APPRECIABLY WORSENERD IN PAST YEAR AS FAR AS POST CAN DETERMINE.

F. LAST SENTENCE OF PARA B3(A) OF REFTEL INCLUDES PHRASE "NON-RACIAL SOCIETY" WHICH IS LOCALLY PREFERRED OVER "MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY" AND WHICH SHOULD THEREFORE BE REATINED IN ANY REWRITE.

2. AS FOR PARA 1A OF STATE 212861, POST IS STILL EXAMINING LOCAL TAX LAWS AND WILL COMMENT IN SEPTTEL WHETHER THEY ARE REGRESSIVE OR NOT.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS, POLICIES
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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